Amendment in Atomic Energy Act

1523. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDMURI HARIKRISHAN:

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in amending the Atomic Energy Act to allow private sector participation in the production of nuclear energy;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to rope in PSU's as junior partners to Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)and wants to produce nuclear energy by PSU's alone;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the NPCIL has got resources to achieve the 20,000 MW nuclear power targeted by 2020; and

(e) if not, the plans to pool the resources, apart from PSU's?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Amendments to Atiomic Energy Act has to be done in a careful manner after a detailed examination of all issues, including nuclear safety, physical security and international commitments.

(b) to (e) Under Atomic Energy Act, 1961 Government companies set up for production of nuclear energy in the country have the responsibility for implementing India's nuclear power programme and they are in a position to achieve this objective. NPCIL can enter into Joint Ventures with Indian companies as minority partners.

Success of Pokhran test

1524. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Senior Scientist involved in nuclear device tests in Pokhran has stated that the success of the tests was exaggerated and explosion of hydrogen bomb lacked precision and proficiency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what way deficiencies in nuclear devices are proposed to be removed when our country has committed not to carry further nuclear tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the recent past certain scientists in the country did raise some doubt about the success of the thermo-nuclear test carried out by India in 1998. However, the Atomic -Energy Commission (AEC) after examining the issue in detail has released a statement confirming achievement of 50 $\pm$ 10 KT yield in the thermo-nuclear Pokhran-II test carried out in 1998.

(c) The question does not arise in the case of the India's thermo-nuclear test.